

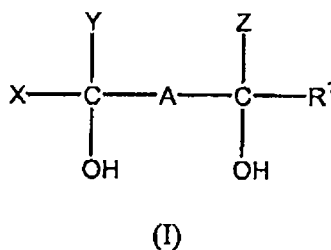
### AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents, as follows.

**NOTE:** Claim identifiers reflect the status of the claims relative to the amendment filed on 17 July 2006. Please contact the undersigned if this amendment has not been received.

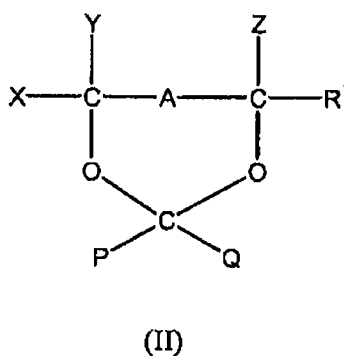
#### In the Claims:

1. (previously presented) A process for the preparation of a polymerisable composition comprising a cross-linker and a polymerisable monomer of formula I



comprising the steps of:

(i) contacting a compound of formula II



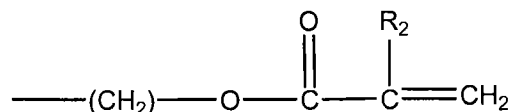
with an immobilised acid,

wherein X, Y, Z, P and Q are independently selected from a hydrocarbyl group or hydrogen,

A is (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>, wherein n is 0 or 1; and

wherein:

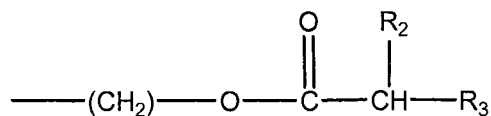
R<sup>1</sup> is a group of the formula IIIA



IIIA

R<sup>2</sup> is selected from the group consisting of H, methyl, ethyl, propyl and butyl, or

R<sup>1</sup> is group of formula IIIB



IIIB

R<sup>2</sup> is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, propyl and butyl, and

R<sup>3</sup> is an unsaturated C<sub>2-5</sub> alkyl; and

(ii) neutralising the product of step (i) such that the cross-linker is formed.

2. (original) A process according to claim 1 wherein the acid is a strong acid.
3. (original) A process according to claim 1 wherein the acid is immobilised on an ion exchange resin.
4. (original) A process according to claim I wherein X and Y are independently selected from hydrocarbon groups having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms and hydrogen.

5. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1 wherein  $R^1$  is a group of formula IIIA, wherein  $R^2$  is  $CH_3$ .

6. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1 wherein X is H; Y is H; Z is H; and  $n = 0$  and  $R^1$  is a group of formula IIIA in which  $R^2$  is  $CH_3$ .

7-8. (cancelled)

9. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1 comprising containing the immobilised acid, contacting the immobilised acid with the compound of formula II and passing a gas through the immobilised acid.

10. (original) A process according to claim 9 wherein the gas is air.

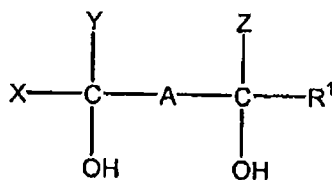
11. (original) A process according to claim 9 wherein the immobilised acid is contacted with the compound of formula II in the absence of an organic solvent.

12. (original) A process according to claim 1 step (i) is performed in the presence of water.

13. (previously presented) A process according to claim 9 wherein containing the immobilised acid comprises a fluidised bed reactor.

14. (previously presented) A process according to claim 9 wherein the process comprises extracting the gas from the contained immobilised acid after the gas has passed through the immobilised acid.

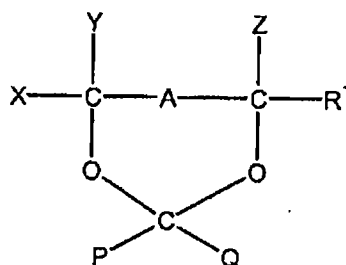
15. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1 wherein the process further comprises the step of polymerising the polymerisable monomer of formula I, whereby a polymer is formed.
16. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1 wherein an acid is formed during the process and said acid is methacrylic acid.
17. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1 wherein an acid is formed during the process and said acid is acrylic acid.
18. (original) A process according to claim 15 further comprising forming an ocular device from the polymer.
19. (previously presented) A polymerisable monomer or composition obtained in accordance with a process as defined in claim 1.
20. (previously presented) A polymer obtained in accordance with a process as defined in claim 15.
21. (original) An ocular device prepared in accordance with a process as defined in claim 18.
22. (currently amended) A process for the preparation of a polymerisable composition comprising a cross-linker and a polymerisable monomer of formula I



(I)

comprising the steps of:

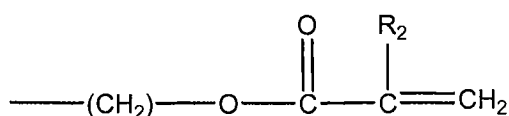
(i) contacting a compound of formula II



(II)

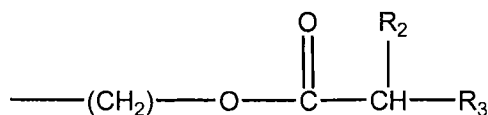
with an immobilised acid,  
having a pKa of less than 3,

wherein X and Y are independently selected from hydrocarbon groups having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms and hydrogen, ~~R<sup>1</sup> is selected from hydrocarbon groups having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms and hydrocarbyl esters~~, Z, P and Q are independently selected from a hydrocarbyl group or hydrogen, and wherein A is (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>, wherein n is 0 or 1; and wherein R<sup>1</sup> is a group of the formula IIIA



IIIA

wherein R<sup>2</sup> is selected from H, methyl, ethyl, propyl and butyl;  
or R<sup>1</sup> is a group of formula IIIB



IIIB

R<sup>2</sup> is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, propyl and butyl, and  
R<sup>3</sup> is an unsaturated C<sub>2-5</sub> alkyl; and

(ii) neutralising the product of step (i) such that the cross-linker is formed.